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Committee on Conferences
Substantive session

Draft report

Addendum

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II. Control and limitation of documentation

B. Provision of written meeting records to subsidiary organs of the General Assembly

Introduction and overview

1. In paragraph 3 of its resolution 50/206 B of 23 December 1995, the General Assembly noted the intention of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to replace its verbatim records by unedited transcripts, and requested the Committee to keep the Assembly informed, through the Committee on Conferences, of the experience of that body regarding unedited transcripts. In addition, in paragraph 4, it took note of the decision of the Committee contained in paragraph 75 of its report,[1] and requested the Committee to report on the implementation of that decision to the Assembly at its fifty-first session.

2. In paragraph 6 of resolution 51/211 B of 18 December 1996, the General Assembly requested the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to continue to keep it informed, through the Committee on Conferences, of its experience with the use of unedited transcripts. In paragraph 7 of that resolution, it took note of the decision of the Committee on Conferences contained in paragraph 89 of its report,[2] and requested the Committee to report on the implementation of that decision to the Assembly at its fifty-second session.

3. Moreover, at its substantive session of 1997, the Committee on Conferences requested its Chairman to write to the chairmen of those bodies entitled to written meeting records who had not yet responded to his previous letter, to remind them of the invitation to consider requesting the Secretariat to issue unedited transcripts of one meeting for comparison

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purposes, with a view to the possible substitution of such transcripts for their usual records in the future.

4. At the Committee's 408th meeting, on 1 September 1998, the representative of the Secretariat presented an oral report on the matter.

Discussion

5. The view was expressed that the high degree of accuracy in its unedited verbatim transcripts reported by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should be an incentive for other bodies to carry out the experiment with those records. Moreover, it would be useful if the Commission on International Trade Law could transmit an evaluation of its experience with unedited verbatim transcripts.

Conclusions and recommendations

6. The Committee on Conferences took note of the oral report on the provision of written meeting records to subsidiary organs of the General Assembly.

7. It also took note with appreciation of the fact that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Legal Subcommittee had achieved savings by using unedited verbatim transcripts.

8. The Committee requested the Secretariat to continue to consult with the secretariats of intergovernmental bodies with a view to informing them of the speedy issuance of unedited verbatim transcripts and the cost savings derived therefrom, and encouraging them to follow the example of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in carrying out the experiment with unedited verbatim transcripts, so as to enable the Committee on Conferences to make final recommendations on the matter.

9. The Committee emphasized that the choice of unedited verbatim transcripts should be consistent with the needs of the bodies concerned.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 32* (A/50/32 and Add.1 and 2).

[2] Ibid., *Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 32* (A/51/32 and Corr.1 and Add.1).